

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

PETER VALDEZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC

Defendant.

Case No. 23-cv-07279-CS

**DISCOVERY CONFIDENTIALITY
STIPULATION AND ORDER**

It appearing that discovery in the above-captioned action is likely to involve the disclosure of confidential information, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. Any party to this litigation and any third party shall have the right to designate as “Confidential” and subject to this Order any information, document, or thing, provided it is not publicly available, or portion of any document or thing: (a) that contains customer names, contact and banking information, trade secrets, competitively sensitive technical, marketing, financial, sales or other confidential business information, or (b) that contains private or confidential personal information including personnel records or earnings of other employees, or (c) that contains information received from third parties identified by Defendant as confidential, or (d) which the producing party otherwise believes in good faith to be entitled to protection under Rule 26(c)(1)(G) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rules of the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. Any party to this litigation or any third party covered by this Order, who produces or discloses any Confidential material, including without limitation any information, document, thing, interrogatory answer, admission, pleading, or testimony, shall mark the same with the foregoing or similar legend: “CONFIDENTIAL” or

“CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY CONFIDENTIALITY ORDER” (hereinafter “Confidential”).

2. All Confidential material shall be used by the receiving party solely for purposes of the prosecution or defense of this action, shall not be used by the receiving party for any business, commercial, competitive, personal or other purpose, and shall not be disclosed by the receiving party to anyone other than those set forth in Paragraph 3, unless and until the restrictions herein are removed either by written agreement of counsel for the parties, or by Order of the Court. It is, however, understood that counsel for a party may give advice and opinions to his or her client solely relating to the above-captioned action based on his or her evaluation of Confidential material, provided that such advice and opinions shall not reveal the content of such Confidential material except by prior written agreement of counsel for the parties, or by Order of the Court.

3. Confidential material and the contents of Confidential material may be disclosed only to the following individuals under the following conditions:

- a. Outside counsel (herein defined as any attorney at the parties’ outside law firms) and relevant in-house counsel for the parties;
- b. Outside experts or consultants retained by outside counsel for purposes of this action, provided they have signed a non-disclosure agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A;
- c. Secretarial, paralegal, clerical, duplicating and data processing personnel of the foregoing;
- d. The Court and court personnel;

- e. Any deponent may be shown or examined on any information, document or thing designated Confidential if it appears that the witness authored or received a copy of it, was involved in the subject matter described therein or is employed by the party who produced the information, document or thing, or if the producing party consents to such disclosure;
- f. Vendors retained by or for the parties to assist in preparing for pretrial discovery, trial and/or hearings including, but not limited to, court reporters, litigation support personnel, jury consultants, individuals to prepare demonstrative and audiovisual aids for use in the courtroom or in depositions or mock jury sessions, as well as their staff, stenographic, and clerical employees whose duties and responsibilities require access to such materials; and
- g. The parties. In the case of parties that are corporations or other business entities, “party” shall mean executives who are required to participate in decisions with reference to this lawsuit.
- h. Other than the provisions contained in paragraph 4 below, nothing contained herein shall preclude counsel for either party from showing or discussing any document with a witness or potential witness pursuant to the prosecution or defense of this action.
- i. Other than the provisions contained in paragraph 4 below, no document made a part of the Defendant’s investigation of complaints made Plaintiff shall be deemed Confidential.

4. Customers of Defendant identified in discovery, whether through document production or deposition testimony or any other discovery mechanism, may not be contacted by Plaintiff or any representative of Plaintiff regarding the subject matter of this litigation without first providing notice to Defendant as to the name of the customer they wish to contact. Defendant shall have ten (10) days from the date of that notification to file a letter under seal with the Court, which shall state the reasons for Defendant's objection. Plaintiff may not contact the subject customer until the eleventh (11th) day after Plaintiff provides Defendant with the initial notification outlined in this Paragraph. If Defendant files an objection with the Court, Plaintiff or any representative of Plaintiff may not contact the customer until the Court rules on Defendant's objection. Defendant will not provide the customer with advance notice that Plaintiff or a representative of Plaintiff will contact him or her regarding the subject matter of this litigation. Defendant's counsel and members of the litigation control group (Suzanne Lichtman, Michael Freiheit, Christopher Calabrese, Adam Dumoch, Trey Crosby and Kelsey Guzman) have not discussed or otherwise communicated with any customer about the present litigation.

5. Any investigation files produced by Defendant are deemed Confidential. To the extent that Plaintiff disagrees with this designation, Plaintiff's counsel can serve an objection to said designation, which shall describe with particularity the documents or information in question and shall state the grounds for objection. Defendant's counsel shall respond in writing to such objection within fourteen (14) days, and shall state with particularity the grounds for asserting that the document or information is Confidential. If no timely written response is made to the objection, the challenged designation will be deemed to be void. If the Defendant's counsel makes a timely response to such objection asserting the propriety of the designation,

counsel shall then confer in good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute, Plaintiff's counsel shall file a letter under seal with the Court and request the Court's intervention.

6. Confidential material shall be used only by individuals permitted access to it under Paragraph 3. Confidential material, copies thereof, and the information contained therein, shall not be disclosed in any manner to any other individual, until and unless (a) outside counsel for the party asserting confidentiality waives the claim of confidentiality, or (b) the Court orders such disclosure.

7. With respect to any depositions that involve a disclosure of Confidential material of a party to this action, such party shall have until thirty (30) days after receipt of the deposition transcript within which to inform all other parties that portions of the transcript are to be designated Confidential, which period may be extended by agreement of the parties. No such deposition transcript shall be disclosed to any individual other than the individuals described in Paragraph 3(a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) above and the deponent during these thirty (30) days, and no individual attending such a deposition shall disclose the contents of the deposition to any individual other than those described in Paragraph 3(a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) above during said thirty (30) days. Upon being informed that certain portions of a deposition are to be designated as Confidential, the designating party shall provide copies marking such pages as Confidential to the opposing party(ies).

8. If counsel for a party receiving documents or information designated as Confidential or Highly Confidential hereunder objects to such designation of any or all of such items, the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) Counsel for the objecting party shall serve on the designating party or third party a written objection to said designation, which shall describe with particularity the documents or information in question and shall state the grounds for objection. Counsel for the designating party or third party shall respond in writing to such objection within fourteen (14) days, and shall state with particularity the grounds for asserting that the document or information is Confidential or Highly Confidential. If no timely written response is made to the objection, the challenged designation will be deemed to be void. If the designating party or nonparty makes a timely response to such objection asserting the propriety of the designation, counsel shall then confer in good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute.
- (b) If a dispute as to Confidential designation of a document or item of information cannot be resolved by agreement, the proponent of the designation being challenged shall present the dispute to the Court initially by telephone or letter, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 37.2, before filing a formal motion for an order regarding the challenged designation. The document or information that is the subject of the filing shall be treated as originally designated pending resolution of the dispute.

9. To the extent consistent with applicable law, the inadvertent or unintentional disclosure of Confidential material that should have been designated as such, regardless of whether the information, document or thing was so designated at the time of disclosure, shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a party's claim of confidentiality, either as to the specific information, document or thing disclosed or as to any other material or information

concerning the same or related subject matter. Such inadvertent or unintentional disclosure may be rectified by notifying in writing counsel for all parties to whom the material was disclosed that the material should have been designated Confidential within a reasonable time after disclosure. Such notice shall constitute a designation of the information, document or thing as Confidential under this Discovery Confidentiality Order.

10. When the inadvertent or mistaken disclosure of any information, document or thing protected by privilege or work-product immunity is discovered by the producing party and brought to the attention of the receiving party, the receiving party's treatment of such material shall be in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). Such inadvertent or mistaken disclosure of such information, document or thing shall not by itself constitute a waiver by the producing party of any claims of privilege or work-product immunity. However, nothing herein restricts the right of the receiving party to challenge the producing party's claim of privilege if appropriate within a reasonable time after receiving notice of the inadvertent or mistaken disclosure.

11. No information that is in the public domain or which is already known by the receiving party through proper means or which is or becomes available to a party from a source other than the party asserting confidentiality, rightfully in possession of such information on a non-confidential basis, shall be deemed or considered to be Confidential material under this Discovery Confidentiality Order.

12. This Discovery Confidentiality Order shall not deprive any party of its right to object to discovery by any other party or on any otherwise permitted ground. This Discovery Confidentiality Order is being entered without prejudice to the right of any party to move the Court for modification or for relief from any of its terms.

13. This Discovery Confidentiality Order shall survive the termination of this action and shall remain in full force and effect unless modified by an Order of this Court or by the written stipulation of the parties filed with the Court.

14. Upon final conclusion of this litigation, including any appeal or expiration of the time within which an appeal may be perfected, and upon request of the party asserting a CONFIDENTIAL designation, each party or other individual subject to the terms hereof shall be under an obligation to assemble and to return to the originating source all originals and unmarked copies of documents and things containing Confidential material and to destroy, should such source so request, all copies of Confidential material that contain and/or constitute attorney work product as well as excerpts, summaries and digests revealing Confidential material; provided, however, that counsel may retain complete copies of all transcripts, discovery, correspondence, and pleadings including any exhibits attached thereto for archival purposes, subject to the provisions of this Discovery Confidentiality Order. To the extent a party requests the return of Confidential material from the Court after the final conclusion of the litigation, including the exhaustion of all appeals therefrom and all related proceedings, the party shall file a motion seeking such relief.

**LAW OFFICE OF GAMBINO &
DEMERS, LLC**

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Seibel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HONORABLE CATHY SEIBEL, U.S.D.J.

DATED: 6/27/24